

# The Brooklyn Paper

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## CYCLONES GET WORLD SERIOUS

Does this championship team feel familiar? Eight Mets were forged in Coney Island

By David Russell  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Meet the Mets — because most of them were made in Brooklyn!

Eight of the World Series-bound New York Mets cut their teeth playing for the Brooklyn Cyclones in Coney Island. Taking the field at the People's Playground may be a fond memory for some of the Cyclones Eight, but it only feels like a distant dream for one Mets rookie whose whirlwind ascendancy took him from scooping ground balls in Sodom by the Sea to playing in the World Series in one short year.

"It's been a blur," said left fielder Michael Conforto, who hit .331 with three homers in 42 games for the Clones in 2014. "It kind of feels like it's been more than a year. I think that it's just from going through so many leagues, seeing so many different places. Just growing up a little bit, growing up as a baseball player. So for me it kind of feels it's been more than just a year but it's definitely been a whirlwind."

Conforto closed the 2014 Cyclones season before 2015 stints with Florida and upstate Mets feeder teams landed him in the big leagues in July. The rise was meteoric, but he never forgot who got him there, he said.

"I've had a lot of great coaches through the system," he said. "I



(Left to right) Shortstop Wilmer Flores got his start in 2008 when he was 17 years old. Sluggers Daniel Murphy was a force at the plate with the Clones in 2006 and 2008. First baseman Lucas Duda when he was a Mini-Met in 2007. And last year, Michael Conforto was one of the bright spots of an otherwise dour Cyclones' season.

think it's definitely a testament to our minor league system and how they sculpt players and put things into them that help them grow and become better players."

Conforto is in good company — Daniel Murphy, Lucas Duda, Wilmer Flores, Kevin Plawewski, Kirk Nieuwenhuis, Hansel Robles, and 2014 Golden Glove-winner Juan Lagares all previously

wore Cyclones uniforms.

Murphy, who nabbed the National League championship series Most Valuable Player award for hitting a homer in each of four playoff games against the Cubs — plus dingers against Clayton Kershaw and Zach Greinke during the division series against the Dodgers — apparently learned what not to do while playing for the Clones, where

he went homerless in 11 games during stints in 2006 and 2008.

Duda honed his bat in the minors by hitting four homers — and having a Cyclones-record 17-game hitting streak — for the 2007 Mini-Mets. And when the first baseman helped clinch the National League pennant with a three-run homer in the first inning of the series' final game, it wasn't the first time

his bat led to a playoff win — his homer and two-run single back in 2007 McNamara Division playoffs against the hated Staten Island Yankees led to a Game One victory.

Fan favorite Flores hit .267 in eight games with the 2008 Cyclones. It has been a wild year for the infielder, who made national headlines for crying on the field after

he thought the Mets traded him on July 29, hit a storybook walk-off home run two days later, and then moved up to starting shortstop after a Chase Utley slide broke Ruben Tejada's leg in the National League Division Series. The World Series bid has been a dream since his Cyclones days, he said.

"This is what you work for," Flores said. "First of all, you want

to get to the big leagues. Once you're here you want to make it to the World Series and it's amazing to be here. It's a very good feeling and we're going to have fun."

Former Clones' contributions to the Amazins' franchise are palpable outside the playoffs, too. In July, Kirk Nieuwenhuis became the first Met to hit three home

See METS on page 11



Red Hook's John Quadrozzi Jr. wants to turn the S.S. United States into a floating office and entertainment facility on the Red Hook waterfront.

## Will it float?

Push to bring historic ship to Hook

By Lauren Gill  
for The Brooklyn Paper

He is waiting for his ship to come in! The owners of historic luxury passenger liner the S.S. United States — which is currently wasting away in a Philadelphia berth — are trying to save the ship from the scrap heap, and a Red Hook businessman wants to dock it at his waterfront empire and turn it into a floating office and entertainment complex.

"I can't say enough how exciting it would be to be a part of getting this ship

sited in this area of Red Hook," said concrete magnate John Quadrozzi Jr., who owns the Gowanus Bay Terminal at the end of Columbia Street.

The 63-year-old behemoth known as "America's Flagship" — once the fastest ocean liner in the world — ferried icons including John F. Kennedy, Walt Disney, John Wayne, and Marilyn Monroe across the Atlantic during its heyday.

But the rise of air travel eventually put it out of commission, and for the past 19 years it has languished, rack-

ing up a maintenance bill of \$60,000 per month that its skippers say they can't afford to foot for much longer. When they sent out an S.O.S. to New Yorkers interested in housing it and fixing it up, Quadrozzi answered the call.

His pitch is to gussy up the gutted vessel's 12 decks — which span 13 football fields worth of space — and fill them with offices for start-ups, a gym and swimming pool, eateries, a theater, a maritime-focused school, and a nautical museum. The ship would be self-sustaining, he claims, converting waste to energy and harnessing solar and wind power.

The plan may sound Titanic — in fact, the boat itself is larger — but Quadrozzi says both he and the S.S. United States Conservancy, which has owned the craft since 1999, believe it holds water.

See SHIP on page 4

## Something in the water

Marine life returns to noxious Newtown Creek

By Allegra Hobbs  
The Brooklyn Paper

Newtown Creek is back from the dead!

A group of eco-activists who built a natural aquarium on the fetid waterway in the spring say it is now teeming with marine life — proof, they claim, that Brooklyn's

second most toxic body of water is slowly becoming healthier.

"A lot of people who are familiar with the creek came to see it as a dead zone where nothing is living," said Willis Elkins of community group the Newtown Creek Alliance. "That's not really the case."

The neon-green-thumbs built



Cleaning our Waterways

the so-called "living dock" — a floating wooden raft with salt marsh grasses growing through the center — to observe the critters that have been re-emerging in the estuary since the city began controlling storm-water overflows and policing polluters who have long used the water as a toxic-waste dump, said Elkins.

The activists say they saw fish, crabs, eels, and birds flocking back to the creek better known as a slough of petroleum, raw sewage, and dangerous metals. But there was still a dearth of healthy shoreline space for the critters to inhabit, and so they decided to create something



Mollusks and a host of other sea critters are repopulating the once-dead Newtown Creek.

for the marine life to cling to — a project they funded, appropriately, through funds Big Oil paid out for hitting the creek with an oil spill three times the size of the Exxon Valdez disaster.

The dock now acts as a miniature reef for the revived wildlife population, Elkins said — mussels, shrimp, and other shellfish have colonized the bottom of the structure, while wading birds like

herons perch on top.

The alliance is now teaming up with another crew attempting to bring life back to the creek — the North Brooklyn Boat Club, which carefully paddles canoes along the federal Superfund site — to ferry visitors to the dock to see the turnaround for themselves.

"Hopefully people can see the creek is not the dead zone it once was," said Elkins.

## Bats all folks!



Batdad Vincent Dima brought his sidekick Anthony as Robin and Janet as Batgirlfriend to the Coney Island Children's Halloween Parade at MCU Park on Saturday.

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# Block-buster

## Landmarks green-lights revised Pavilion condos

By Colin Mixson  
The Brooklyn Paper

It is cor-nice!  
The city's Landmarks Preservation Commission last Thursday unanimously approved a developer's proposal to alter the historic Pavilion Theater in Park Slope, after architects re-jiggered designs that the commission shot down in August for sporting, amongst other things, underwhelming cornices — also known as the decorative railing around the roof.

Locals unsatisfied with the original design are generally pleased with the developer's changes, which now include strong cornices worthy of Park Slope, according to a local leader.

"I think it's safe to say that we're pleased to see that they had fully considered the feedback they received and integrated much of it into their redesign," said Community Board 6 district manager Craig Hammerman.

The commission gave a thumbs down to developer Hidrock Property's original

blueprints for affixing a condo building to the side of the Bartel-Pritchard Square cinema because many locals and commissioners felt the new five-story addition overshadowed the 87-year-old theater and didn't quite fit in with the neighborhood's historic district.

The original design for the new building's decorative ledges featured a fifth-floor cornice that curved out from the facade that Hammerman described as more of an "optical illusion" that "suggested a cornice" rather than the real thing, and did not line up with the railing on the Pavilion Theater's own roof.

The architects have now redrawn the cornice from the realm of illusion and into actual existence and have lowered it to align with the theater's own superficial ledge — keeping the design in-line with not only the adjoining theater, but with the neighborhood's general architectural motif, Hammerman said.

"What they proposed was



Slopers say this sequel is better than the original — the revised Pavilion Theater development features a less prominent fifth floor and a more prominent cornice.

much more pronounced," he said.

The developer also selected what it describes as a "warmer" brick color for the residential addition, assigned the ground-floor space over to the theater — rather than its previous plan to install retail stores — and reduced the size of its fifth floor, setting it back from the rest of the building so it is much less visible from the street and doesn't detract

from the starring attraction next door.

Hidrock, which purchased the property for \$16 million in 2006, plans to keep part of the original theater as a movie house, reducing the current eight screens down to four and potentially hiring a new operator for the business.

The specifics of the cinema remain a mystery, but they're coming soon to a theater near you, Hammer-

man said. The developer still needs to score a land-use variance from the city for its construction, which will require yet another public-review process, during which time the community will get to see its interior plans and will have even more opportunity to comment on the proposal.

"We haven't seen an interior of the plans," he said. "We'll see that in the next round of reviews."

# Dangerous ice

## Ammonia leak at P'Park rink fells 11

By Colin Mixson  
The Brooklyn Paper

Not cool!  
The Prospect Park ice-skating rink's ammonia-based coolant system sprang a leak last Wednesday evening, releasing noxious fumes that sent 11 people to the hospital and forced nearby shops to close their doors as customers ran for cover, according to one local entrepreneur.

"It was terrible," said Tony Fongyit, who runs Scoops Ice Cream on Flatbush Avenue between Chester and Westbury courts, and shut up shop an hour early in order to escape the stink. "Terrible to the max."

Firefighters responded to reports of the putrid odor at the LeFrak Center on the Prospect Lefferts Gardens side of the park at 7:17 pm, which led them to a large container at the operating plant that makes ice for the rink that was spewing a miasma of gaseous ammonia, according to a fire department spokesman.

Police closed the park at 9 pm, according to Prospect Park Alliance rep Grace McCreight, but it wasn't until 11:50 pm — more than four



The LeFrank Center rink in happier times.

hours after first responders arrived on the scene — that they shut off the valve controlling the rink's coolant system and plugged up the fount of foul fumes, according to a police spokesman.

In that time, emergency responders took eight firefighters and three civilians to the hospital for injuries caused by inhaling the fetid effluvium, according to a New York City fire department spokesman.

Sniffing ammonia fumes can burn your nose and throat and make it difficult to breathe, which Fongyit said he witnessed first-hand

as locals fled the area with handkerchiefs clutched to their nostrils.

"Everyone had a kerchief or something on their nose," he said.

The rink has been closed all week as Upsilon Ventures, which operates the facility, hustles to convert it from roller skating to ice skating for the winter and is expected to reopen on Oct. 31, McCreight said.

Prospect Park is now back open to the public and the parks department is conducting the investigation into the cause of the leak, she said.

# Schools feel the squeeze

## C'Gardens parents fear impending overcrowding crisis

By Harry MacCormack  
The Brooklyn Paper

Talk about a cram session.

Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill elementary schools are bursting at the seams, and the city must do something about it before the situation develops into the overcrowding disaster now facing other nearby schools, say parents.

"Often with overcrowding, nothing is done until it's a full-blown crisis," said Paige Bellenbaum, who has two children at PS 58 on Carroll Street, at a meeting about

school overcrowding in the area last Wednesday night. "What we're worried about is — what is next year going to look like?"

Enrollment numbers at PS 58 have skyrocketed over the last decade as young families have flooded the neighborhoods — from 388 students in 2004 to 996 this year — and the school is now around 100 kids over capacity, according to city data.

The school managed to squeeze in everyone who applied this year, but it may be forced to turn away new stu-

dents next year as it has now placed strict caps on several classes and doesn't have a scrap of space to share — administrators are already using closets as offices, teachers are holding music classes on the auditorium stage, and some classrooms are packing in so many kids they are in danger of violating fire code, said the school's principal.

"It's a very real problem we're facing," said Katherine Dello Stritto. "We have capped our upper grades, so any student that comes into the zone, we can't of-

fer them a seat."

Other neighborhood schools aren't much roomier. PS 29 on Henry Street between Baltic and Kane streets is now full with around 900 kids, and PS 146 on Henry Street at Fourth Place — which is a magnet school and only takes a small number of local kids — is a little over capacity at 650 students, according to city data — a determination it makes based on the square footage of classrooms, what is being taught inside them, and whether the school receives funding for low-income students.



State Sen. Daniel Squadron — a PS 29 parent — discusses school overcrowding.

Carroll Gardeners and Cobble Hillians say they don't want to end up in the same situation as PS 8 in nearby Brook-

lyn Heights. The popular elementary school has been way over capacity for years, and the city only started working on

a solution this year after the school cut its pre-kindergarten program to save space.

Parents say they are kicking up a stink about their schools now because the situation proves the city can't be trusted to fix the problem on its own.

"We've seen that early engagement alone does not force the Department of Education to do what they are supposed to do," said state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D–Brooklyn Heights), who is also a PS 29 parent.

City officials acknowledged the overcrowding problem, but say they have no immediate plans to do anything about it, and claim there is no space in the area to build new schools.

One solution officials are considering is to rezone PS 58

to send some kids to nearby PS 32 on Hoyt Street, which is under capacity and is slated to get a new 430-seat building in the future.

But locals say that may not be a long-term solution. The city is removing the trailers PS 32 uses for many of its classes next September as part of a city-wide push to get the shoddy structures out of schools, and the school runs a widely celebrated program for kids with autism that necessitates keeping class sizes small.

And even when the new building arrives, new housing developments in nearby Gowanus — particularly the 700-unit building developer Lightstone is currently erecting by the Canal — could fill the new seats as quickly as they are built, say parents.

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# Famished fiends steal delivery man's order

## 76TH PRECINCT

**Carroll Gardens—Cobble Hill—Red Hook**

Two hungry brutes robbed a Chinese food delivery man of an order on Richard Street on Oct. 18.

The delivery man was dropping food off near Wolcott Street around 1:30 pm when two masked men approached, flashed a revolver, and demanded he hand over the food, according to police.

They fled into the building he was supposedly delivering to with the grub in hand, cops said.

## De-icer

A scoundrel robbed a man of a pricey watch and necklace while he was sitting in his car on Hoyt Street on Oct. 16.

The guy told cops he was parked between Butler and Douglass streets around 7 pm when the pillager came upon him.

He punched him in the face repeatedly, grabbed his Breitling watch and a platinum Jesus pendant and chain and fled before the victim could get a good look at him, according to police.

## Ticket not to ride

Cops cuffed a teen who they say stole a Citi Bike from Union Street on Oct. 22.

He might have gotten away with it if he hadn't been riding on the sidewalk near Columbia Street, where a cop spotted him and stopped him to write a ticket for a moving violation, according to a police report.

The officer discovered the bike was stolen when he looked up its serial number and the teen was charged with possessing stolen property.

## Motel mugger

A hot-headed heister took a woman's wallet during an early morning argument at a motel on Hamilton Avenue on Oct. 27.

The robber and the victim were arguing when the man threw the woman's bag out into the hallway, spilling its contents, the woman told police. He grabbed her wallet, flashed a gun in his

waistband, and fled, taking about \$40 in cash and the victim's bank cards with him, cops said.

The victim told police she doesn't know the man.

— Dennis Lynch

## 84TH PRECINCT

**Brooklyn Heights—Dumbo—Boerum Hill—Downtown**

### Bad delivery

Two goons threw a delivery guy off his bike on Flatbush Avenue Extension on Oct. 20, taking cash.

The victim told police that he was near Concord Street at 11:50 am when the duo hurled him from his bike, and snatched the wallet from his pocket. The crooks then plucked the cash from the man's wallet, and tossed it to the ground before fleeing, cops said.

### Smacked

A crook nabbed a phone from a man on Fulton Street on Oct. 20.

The victim told police that he was between Red Hook Lane and Smith Street at 4:30 pm when the thief smacked him on the back of his head.

The man's phone fell to the ground and the crook grabbed and bellowed, "What now?" before fleeing, according to police.

### Boo!

Some goon threatened a 15-year-old boy into handing over his pricey iPhone 6 on Sidney Place on Oct. 21.

The victim told police that he was near Aitken Place at 8:16 am when the scoundrel sauntered up and snarled a vicious threat.

"Give me your phone, or I will stab you," the thief growled.

The kid handed over the phone without a second thought, cops said.

### Getting a Dell

A burglar ransacked a Livingston Street construction site on Oct. 21, taking two computers.

A security guard told police that he was making his rounds

## POLICE BLOTTER



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### Crime time

A thief beat and robbed a man on Tillary Street on Oct. 21, taking his phone.

The victim told police that he was near Cadman Plaza West at 2:50 pm when he was approached by a man who asked for the time.

When the victim pulled his phone, the crook showed his true colors, and snatched the device from his hands, before slugging the man and pushing him to the ground, authorities said.

### Tool time

A looter broke into and pilfered a man's vehicle he'd parked on Atlantic Avenue on Oct. 23.

The victim told police that he left his car between Hoyt and Bond streets at 9 am, and returned about 45 minutes later to find his passenger-side door had been busted.

Inside the vehicle, the victim discovered that two hammer drills and associated bit sets worth more than \$3,000 had been taken, cops said.

### Surprise!

A gunman blasted a 21-year-old man in the leg on Fulton Street on Oct. 18.

The victim told police that he was near Water Street at 12:30 am when, suddenly, the sound of gunfire rang out through the night.

When the man looked down, he was surprised to find that one of those bullets had found his right leg, and he was rushed to Kings County Hospital, cops said.

### Wake-up call

A 57-year-old man was busted for allegedly ransack-

ing a man's Sidney Place home — while he was sleeping — on Oct. 19.

The victim told police that he was asleep inside his apartment between Joralemon and State streets at 4:10 am when the lights suddenly flicked on in the room outside his bedroom.

The victim woke up just in time to spot the suspect fleeing his abode, a laptop and cellphone clutched in his hands, police said.

## 78TH PRECINCT

**Park Slope**

### Take out

A crook busted into and looted a Seventh Avenue diner sometime during the night of Oct. 17.

Workers reported leaving the eatery between St. Johns and Lincoln places at 11 pm, and the morning crew arrived at 5 am the next day to find a glass door busted in and a brick lying conspicuously just inside the diner.

Inside, they found the burglar had taken two cash drawers containing roughly \$600, cops said.

### You got it

A carjacker sped off with a man's 2012 Toyota Camry he parked along 13th street on Oct. 17.

The victim told police that he left his four-door between Fourth and Fifth avenues at 7 am, and returned that evening to find an empty spot where his car had been.

### Bad trip

Cops busted a 31-year-old man for breaking into and trashing the Second Avenue offices of a tour company on Oct. 18.

A witness told police he spotted the man inside the establishment between Sixth and Seventh streets at the odd hour of 4:51 am, and phoned up the police to make sure

everything was on the up and up.

But, as the witness suspected, it turned out the man had no business being inside the Second Avenue office, and had merely let himself in to create a mess worth \$1,000 in damages, cops said.

— Colin Mixson

## Dirty laundry

A thief broke into and ransacked a Fourth Avenue laundromat on Oct. 17.

Surveillance footage shows the thief busting into the establishment between 14th and 15th streets at 3 am by shattering a glass window and slithering inside.

Once in, the crook didn't bother trying to crack open the register, and merely grabbed the whole thing, along with the \$450 it contained, police said.

## Cash withdrawal

A crook broke into a Fourth Avenue pizza shop sometime after Oct. 10, and cracked open an automated teller machine containing more than \$16,000.

The pizza guy told police he left his shop between Union and President streets at 2 am, and returned four days later to find his cash dispenser had been pilfered.

It's possible the crook entered through a rear door, but the thief did a good job covering his tracks, police said.

## Close call

A bike-riding bandit swiped a phone from a man's hands on Prospect Park West on Oct. 12.

The victim told police that he was near Ninth Street at 2:20 pm when the biker swooped by and grabbed the phone.

Fortunately, a good Samaritan was on hand to head off the biker, and the crook was forced to toss the phone to the ground in order to make good on his escape.

## Fixed

A crook made off with a man's fixed-gear bike he'd left in a President Street bike storage facility on Oct. 14.

The victim told police he was visiting a friend at the establishment between Nev-

ins Street and Third Avenue at 8:50 pm and had left his bike in one of the sheds there. He wasn't gone 10 minutes before he returned to find his bike had been pinched, cops said.

— Colin Mixson

## 68TH PRECINCT

**Bay Ridge—Dyker Heights**

**Liquor lifters**

A couple of boozers stole a bar's worth of hard liquor from an 86th Street golf club's basement on Oct. 20.

The keys to the establishment near Seventh Avenue were lost last month, cops noted, and it's unclear when or how the burglars got their hands on them.

They waited until 1:30 am to free round out on the course, and went right for a storeroom to grab 38 bottles of hard liquor worth nearly \$1,500, according to a report.

They grabbed 12 bottles of Grey Goose vodka, 12 bottles of Hennessy brandy, and 14 bottles of Johnny Walker whiskey, according to police.

## Easy grab

A thief took advantage of an unlocked car on 85th Street on Oct. 25, making off with more than \$14,000 in jewelry and gadgets.

The victim told cops she left the car, unlocked, outside a home near Fourth Avenue at around 1 pm.

When she returned she found her car ransacked — missing an engagement ring, a wedding ring, two diamond rings, a diamond necklace, two cellphones, and her Coach purse containing cash and credit cards, cops reported.

It could have been worse: according to police, the keys were in the ignition, too, but the ne'er-do-well either didn't notice or was happy with his hefty take, and he left the car where it was.

## Cells swiped

An opportunistic looter swiped a wallet and two cellphones out of a car left running with its doors unlocked on 10th Avenue on Oct. 25.

The victim told cops he left the car running near 86th Street while he ran into a home, but returned to find two Samsung Galaxy S6s and his wallet with two credit cards and cash in it missing from his glove compartment, according to police.

— Dennis Lynch

## 94TH PRECINCT

**Greenpoint—Northside**

**Trashed**

A conniving climber came through a woman's Eagle Street apartment window and made off with a wad of cash and jewelry on Oct. 21.

The woman told cops she was taking out the trash from her home near McGuinness Boulevard between 11 and 11:30 am when the thief snuck through her front window and rifled through her dresser drawers.

The perp made off with a grand in cash and some jewelry, police said.

The victim said she saw the sneak walking up the basement stairs to exit the building through the front door, according to a police report.

## Generator grab

A greedy goon pillaged a Richardson Street construction site sometime overnight on Oct. 21 and stole two pricey generators from a remodeling company.

The company told cops the site was vacant after 4:45 pm on Oct. 21 and when workers returned around 7:30 am the next day, the chain and lock on the front door were damaged and two generators were gone.

The perp fled through the front entrance, cops said.

## Moto haul

A couple of crooks swiped a motorcycle off N. Eighth Street in the early morning hours of Oct. 22.

The victim told cops he left his Ducati motorcycle parked between Driggs Avenue and Roebling Street before going into his apartment, but as he was leaving for the gym at 4:45 am he noticed the bike was gone.

Security footage shows two perps in dark clothes pull up in a dark minivan, open the trunk, and load the motorcycle into the van before speeding

down N. Eighth Street toward Driggs Avenue, cops said.

## 90TH PRECINCT

**Southside—Bushwick**

### School blues

A scoundrel mugged a 14-year-old kid on his way to school near Lorimer Street and Union Avenue on Oct. 20.

The kid was on his way to school at 11:30 am when the mugger yelled "Yo!" after him. The teen turned around, but kept walking, cops said.

The perp then ran after the victim, cut him off, and told him to run his pockets, according to a police report.

When the teen said nothing, the punk reached into the victim's pocket and took out his wallet, threw it to the ground, then picked it up and ran away, police said.

### Pillaged

Some punk broke into an 81-year-old man's Flushing Avenue apartment and ran off with a bounty of valuable jewelry on the afternoon of Oct. 21.

The wizened victim told cops he went to the supermarket at 1 pm and returned to his home between Vandervoort Place and Knickerbocker Avenue at 2:30 pm to find the window leading to his fire escape open.

He saw the sneak had climbed through the window and ran off with three gold watches, a gold chain, and three pearl necklace sets, authorities said.

The victim's neighbors reported hearing loud noises at around 1 pm and again at 2 pm, cops said.

### Scattered thief

Police collared a guy who they say broke into a 75-year-old man's S. Second Street apartment on Oct. 19.

The oldest case came to his apartment between Have-meyer Street and Marcy Avenue at around 7:15 pm and found the suspect standing there with the victim's possessions scattered across his dresser, cops said.

Authorities arrested the alleged trickster, according to a police report.

— Allegra Hobbs

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## SHIP...

*Continued from page 1*

"The conservancy feels not only would it physically be a good space to support the economics of the ship, it would be viable," he said.

The extreme makeover would cost somewhere between \$50 and \$200 million, according to the conservancy, plus a \$2 million ticket to tow the vessel from Philly to Red Hook.

Quadrozzi won't foot the bill himself, but he will host the ship at his Red Hook facility rent-free, and both he and the conservancy say they are in the midst of talks with



The S.S. United States in its current state.

donors, developers, investors, and government agencies to fund the endeavor.

The conservancy says it is

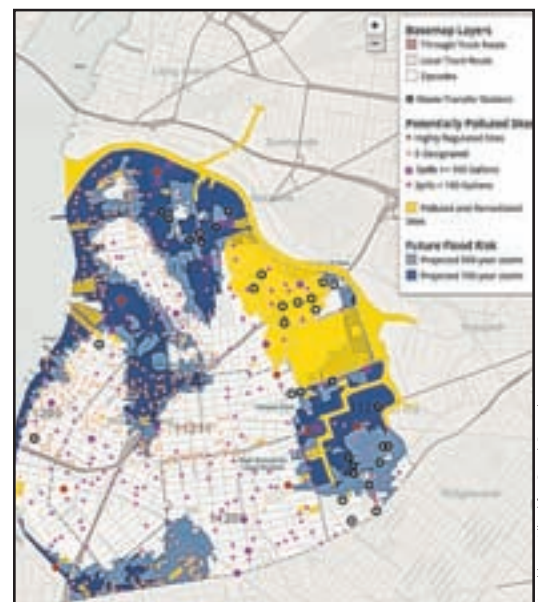
still deciding between the Red Hook plan and an undisclosed Manhattan location — or the scrap yard, if neither is viable — and hopes to make a decision by early November.

If the conservancy crew selects his plan, Quadrozzi says he will start a steering committee made up of members of the community to discuss the impact of the ship on the neighborhood.

Red Hook is home to several repurposed boats — Gowanus Bay Terminal already hosts the 107-year-old S.S. Yankee that owners are hoping to turn into a museum and gallery, oil tanker-turned-floating-education-

space the Mary A. Whalen is docked in Atlantic Basin, and the Waterfront Museum at the end of Conover Street is housed on a 100-year-old barge — and residents say the S.S. United States would be a welcome addition to the neighborhood flotilla.

"It would have an incredible impact, it would create a huge space of commercial and industrial use in Red Hook which is really in line with what the neighborhood uses are now," said Victoria Hagman, a member of Community Board 6 who has lived in the area for 13 years. "It will be really exciting to have a historic ship located right here."



A new online map charting Greenpoint and Williamsburg's toxic history lets residents see what hazards lurk under their feet.

## TOXIC...

*Continued from page 1*

toxic spills, and old factories are blue. Amateur anthropologists can also overlay income levels, asthma rates, and population density to dig deeper into the data.

The map went live on Oct. 20 and is still a prototype, but the creators say they've already had plenty of feedback, and locals have told them they want a search bar that allows them to pinpoint their own homes — which they hope to add to future iterations.

"We're going to take a look and see if we're able to do that," said Rita Pasarell of Neighbors Allied for Good Growth, which scored a \$50,000 grant from the state's Department of Environmental Conservation to create the map. "The whole point of the map is for people to be able to use it easily."

One early user says he'd also like to see the map show more contrast between just-a-little-bit-gross and imminently dangerous forms of pollution, so people living on or near the tainted sites know exactly what they're in for.

"I think having further distinction of what it means to people that are living or work-

ing nearby is useful," said Wilis Elkins of community organization the Newtown Creek Alliance, which works to improve the dirty waterway. "Right now, a lot of it seems mostly uniform, but there's a lot of variation."

But environmental champions are still cheering the first round of contamination cartography. Most locals are aware of the filthy state of the Newtown Creek, but many don't realize all the other nasties lurking in their neighborhood, said Elkins.

"It's easy for people to not know what is in the soil or the groundwater they're surrounded by," he said.

Ideally, the map should actually become less colorful the more successful it is, he said.

"Hopefully this can allow more education and people can use it to advocate for a more thorough and timely clean-up," said Elkins.

Neighbors Allied for Good Growth expects to have the final map up and running at its website [nag.brooklyn.org](http://nag.brooklyn.org) by next spring, according to Pasarell.

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# Bold move

## Bushwick getting own font

By Allegra Hobbs  
The Brooklyn Paper

This is just his type. A graphic designer is creating a font inspired by Bushwick, and now he is looking for local backers to kick in a few bucks so he can turn his design into a typable typeface.

"I'm asking the Brooklyn and New York community to pitch in any way they can to celebrate the Bushwick neighborhood through a typeface," said Pablo Medina, who recently launched a crowd-funding campaign to raise the \$7,000 he says he needs to complete his Bushwick font.

Since opening a studio in the neighborhood three years ago, Medina says he has been obsessively photographing writing from signs and murals on neighborhood streets, which he blended into

the typeface.

The thick, heavy letters are modeled after graffiti tags around the neighborhood, while the shading is reminiscent of the hand-painted signs of long-standing local businesses — a combination that he says honors both the community's enduring Latino presence alongside the recent hipster influx.

"There's a really awesome integration of the immigrant community with the artist community," said Medina, who has also created fonts inspired by Buenos Aires street art and neon signs in Manhattan. "There's no real strong wall or strong divide — there's an overlap."

The wordsmith has already created all the upper and lower-case letters for Bushwick, but he still has to do the numbers and punctua-



Designer Pablo Medina is creating a typeface called Bushwick — as seen on his T-shirt.

tion, which will take another six months, he said.

So he started the crowd-funding campaign to help cover studio rent and launch the finished product. Fans have already pledged more

than \$3,000 — mostly graphic designers and art directors who say they're eager to get their hands on the font and start creating designs that just scream "Bushwick."

"If there's something that

might be used within a context of something from Bushwick or northern Brooklyn, to evoke that feeling, it would be really great," said Greenpoint designer Scott Kellum, who donated some cash.

# Composting never smelled so sweet

## New Bushwick community garden encourages reuse with flowers

By Allegra Hobbs  
The Brooklyn Paper

It's the prettiest dump in town!

A scrappy Bushwick composting service has turned a long-abandoned Myrtle Avenue lot into a community garden where residents can dispose of their food waste amidst a field of wild flowers — an experience its founder hopes will change the way people relate to their leftovers.

"We're trying to show an example in this neighborhood of more robust composting operation to reframe peoples' relationships to waste," said Sandy Nurse of composting group BK Rot, which created the Know Waste Lands garden between Cedar Street and DeKalb Avenue this summer.

Nurse first founded BK Rot in 2013 as a composting pickup service and employment scheme for neighborhood kids



Ollinio Mazatl and Veronica Raya stopped and smelled the wildflowers at Know Waste Land's first-ever community gathering.

—for a small fee, eco-conscious locals can leave their organic waste in a bag on their doorstep once a week and youngsters on

bikes pick it up and peddle it to a scrap heap.

Without a plot of land to call their own, the transient scrap-

pers rented out corners of neighborhood properties to store their worm food — until Nurse spotted the unused stretch of city-owned land under the rattling rails of the M train.

The group first eyed the plot as a permanent home for its compost piles, but soon realized it could pull double-duty as a garden, and started gathering residents' support to turn the derelict lot into a green space in the winter of 2013.

It took years of paperwork and bureaucratic hurdles, but Nurse said it was worth it when the group finally signed a four-year deal with the city to maintain the land last summer.

"It feels really good to know that even though it's a really long, complicated process, there are instances where a community can come together and decide how we want to use the land we collectively own," she said.

The land, which was once filled with trash and abandoned

cars and had more rubble than fertile soil, is now blooming with sunflowers, mushrooms, and fruit trees.

And the garden has already become a local hub where longtime residents and neighborhood newcomers gather to tend flowers, compost, and bond over their green thumbs and old banana peels, said one new fan.

"We share the city space, but it's so easy to go and hide in the cement and not see anybody unless there is a common reason," said Naya Friel, who attended the garden's first open house party last weekend. "Where else is a 20-year-old going to share the same space with the Dominican man who has been living here for 20 years and has family all around?"

Know Waste Lands (1278 Myrtle Ave. between Cedar Street and DeKalb Avenue in Bushwick, [www.facebook.com/knowwasteland](http://www.facebook.com/knowwasteland)).

# Down with upzoning

## CB2 committee votes against changes

By Harry MacCormack  
The Brooklyn Paper

This fall premiere was a critical flop.

Mayor DeBlasio's plan to allow developers to construct taller buildings with fewer parking spaces in the hope that it will encourage them to create more attractive designs and more below-market units is full of plot holes and needs a rewrite, say members of a Downtown-area panel who voted against the proposal last Thursday.

"It is not ready for prime time," said Irene Janner, a member of Community Board 2's Land Use Committee, which voted 11-2 against the Department of City Planning's Zoning for Quality and Affordability plan. "The city needs to go back to the drawing board and come back with a more fully realized plan."

The citywide rezoning scheme will allow developers to build higher in and around "contextual zoning districts" — areas that place strict limits on the size and shape of new buildings intended to preserve the character of low-rise neighborhoods, which includes vast swathes of Brownstone Brooklyn.

In most cases, it will add around five feet, though in some commercial corridors, it would offer another 10-20 feet — or one to two additional stories. The plan will also nix or reduce requirements to create off-street parking for buildings that include below-market-rate or senior housing.

In Community Board 2, the changes would mostly affect Dumbo, Vinegar Hill, Boerum Hill, Fort Greene, and Clinton Hill, as Downtown already has special zoning rules to allow super tall construction and the Brooklyn Heights historic district has strict height restrictions.

The largest height changes are slated for parts of Myrtle Avenue, Fulton Street, and Atlantic Avenue, which would allow developers an-



Developers building in the areas in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill marked blue would be able to construct two more floors if they include below-market-rate or senior housing under new zoning.

other two stories — though only if they include some below-market or old folks' housing — and the sliver of the Heights not covered by the historic district, between Cadman Plaza and Henry Street, which would also offer a couple of extra stories. A few blocks of Vinegar Hill and Boerum Hill would allow one extra floor, but only if the building is senior housing.

The city claims the extra five feet will encourage developers to design taller ground-floor levels that will fit in better with neighboring brownstones, while the larger additions and parking exemptions will convince them to create more below-market units in their properties.

But the committee members say the voluntary scheme won't work — the city must create a plan that forces the buildings to include those features, or the developers will just do whatever suits their bottom line.

"The ZQA does not go far enough to accomplish its goal for better, more reason-

ably priced housing," said committee member Hilda Klein.

The committee did, however, unanimously approve another proposal — the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing plan, which would require developers in certain areas to set aside at least 25-percent of units in new buildings as below-market-rate in exchange for the city approving any land rezoning.

But no Community Board 2 neighborhoods are marked for the mandatory program — so far, anyway. The first and only area slated for the scheme is East New York, where residents and local pols have railed against the plan, arguing that it is too easy for developers to wriggle out of the requirements and that the so-called "affordable" units — aimed at families earning around \$46,500-\$62,000 — will still be too expensive for people who currently live there, according to a DNA Info report.

Both plans will come before all of Community Board 2 at its next general meeting, scheduled for Nov. 10.

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### Mauricio Carpio

Mauricio Carpio joins Flushing Bank as Branch Manager of the Williamsburg Branch. Mauricio has been in the retail banking industry for more than a decade, most recently at Bank of America as Assistant Vice President, Financial Center Manager. He has significant experience serving the Williamsburg community and recognizes the importance of helping our customers to achieve their financial goals while building long-lasting relationships.

Throughout his career, he has helped many of his associates to become successful contributors in the development of the communities they serve. Mauricio is an active member of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he is fluent in both English and Spanish.



### William Munoz

William Munoz joins Flushing Bank as Business Specialist serving the Williamsburg community. He brings more than eight years of banking experience delivering expertise in financial guidance to small and medium-sized businesses. Prior to joining Flushing Bank, William was a Relationship Manager at Bank of America, where he developed and maintained business and personal relationships. He helped improve business in the Fort Greene area of Brooklyn through his ability and dedication to providing high levels of customer service.

William holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance from Baruch College. He is fluent and able to conduct business in Spanish and is an active member of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.



# GO BROOKLYN

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Oct. 30–Nov. 5, 2015

## Flavor savior

Chef sets rules for good taste

By Bill Rounady  
The Brooklyn Paper

The inventive chef behind the beloved but recently-shuttered Do or Dine restaurant has a new project: a cookbook. Justin Warner's "The Laws of Cooking (and how to break them)" explains the flavor principles that led him to create dishes like foie gras donuts and Dr. Pepper-drenched frog legs by relating them to 11 common foods — such as "The Law of General Tso's Chicken: Spicy meets Sweet."

The Brooklyn Paper sat down with Warner over a late brunch to discuss his restaurant, the book, and what comes next.

**Brooklyn Paper:** So the obvious question is: Why did you close Do or Dine?

**Justin Warner:** The same reason we decided to open it — we just felt like it, you know? Business was like 'eh,' and we were all just tired. We were all 30-plus, and our priorities have kind of changed. ... Do or Dine was great, and I miss it, but I feel like I've grown two inches not having to deal with it.

**BP:** And what are you going to do next?

**JW:** I don't know. I just made this book, so — promote the book, talk about it, get people jazzed about cooking. Do some TV. And right now I'm going to have a salad and a Bloody Mary.

**BP:** Good plan. How did you choose the recipes in the book?

**JW:** I couldn't make this book without the foie gras donut, mostly because that is the recipe that started this book. When I was talking to cookbook publishers, they said, "The question we need to answer is — how do you come up with something like the foie gras donut?" And I was like, "Well, it's basically a compressed version of a classic foie gras presentation, where you'd have some foie gras mousse, and you'd have some bread, and something sweet and fruity with it. That's what the foie gras donut is." And they're like "Yeah, but why does that work? Why is that classic?" I'm like, "Well, it's a peanut butter-and-jelly sandwich, you know? It's something fatty and fruity and something to spread it on. So that's the Law."

**BP:** How do you think people will react to "The Laws of Cooking"?

**JW:** I want people to say "Wow, you



### FOOD

Justin Warner discusses "The Laws of Cooking" at Food Book Party at Berg'n (899 Bergen St. between Franklin and Classon avenues in Crown Heights, [www.bergn.com](http://www.bergn.com)). Nov. 5 at 6:30 pm. \$10.

really opened my eyes.' I think it has that power, because there's no other book that's ever broken down flavors in this very easy-to-understand way. Once you've read this book, you can look at any food in your life and say 'Oh, this [pointing to his kale Caesar salad] is coffee, cream, and sugar' — bitter kale, creamy Caesar, and, believe it or not, these croutons and cheese are oddly sweet. You can look at a Bloody Mary, and see General Tso's chicken — spicy and sweet.

**BP:** You're doing a Food Book Party at Berg'n next week. What's going to happen?



Eating his words: Chef Justin Warner will cook recipes from his new book "The Laws of Cooking" at Berg'n on Nov. 5.

**JW:** We're all going to hang out and jam. I'll make some food, [sommelier Andre Mack] will bring some wine, and we're going to talk about stuff. We'll talk about food. It's sort of for food people, by food people.

**BP:** What are you cooking?

**JW:** I'll do something large-format, that everybody can have. I have no idea what, but I always make sure everybody has enough.

You can't show up at a food party without enough food. Nothing is worse than not enough food. Nothing, ever.

**BP:** Without enough food, you starve to death.

**JW:** Yes! I've tried to make this case a million times but, of all the arts, this is only one without which, we will die. So it's a good skill to learn.



A clip of history: Master barber Greg Purnell will reveal tales from his 30 years in the hair-cutting trade while giving someone a trim in front of a live audience on Nov. 3.

## Some hairy situations

Tales from a barbershop

By Colin Mixson  
The Brooklyn Paper

It's shear entertainment!

A legendary Brooklyn barber will trim hair before a live audience and cut viewers in on some of the best barbershop gossip he has gleaned during his three decades in the follicle business at Bric House on Nov. 3. "Barbershop Stories: It's All About Hair" will bring audiences into the heart of neighborhood institution, says the master barber.

"A barbershop is like the Internet of a community. People go there to find out what's going on, who's who, or even if they need a plumber, they'll give you his number," said Greg Purnell. The tress trimmer cuts hair for a select clientele at his Fort Greene studio, and occasionally provides trims at the Hairrari Barber Salon in East Williamsburg.

### HAIR

"Barbershop Stories: It's All About Hair" at Bric House (647 Fulton St. between Rockwell and Ashland places in Fort Greene, (718) 855-7882, [bricarts-media.org](http://bricarts-media.org)). Nov. 3 at 7 pm. Free.

Purnell hopes that his performance will transport the audience to the barbershops of yesteryear, where barbers served fathers, sons, and their son's sons over the course of a lifetime and knew their com-

munity like the back of a head. "Here in New York, since a lot of things are changing, that history and that relationship people have with their barber is starting to fade a little," said Purnell. "It's sad."

Purnell has trimmed such notable noggins as beleaguered NBA star Lamar Odom and reggae singer Gregory Isaacs. At the Nov. 3 event, he will be joined by musicians, comedians, and other performers for the hair-centric extravaganza. Brooklyn pianist and singer Akie Bermis will enliven the show with his locally-inspired tunes, and comedian Hollie Harper will crack jokes and perform a few hair-raising songs.

Rounding out the show will be Youtube celebrity and host of Music Television's "Decoded" Francesca Ramsey, whose video "S--- White Girls Say... to Black Girls" rocketed her to Internet stardom in 2012, and who will share with audience some hairy situations from her past.

The show's organizer says she wants the evening to tackle the topic of hair from many different angles.

"We're going to bring in a lot of media elements," said Kecia Cole, who curated the performance evening. "It's going to be a multi-media extravaganza."

### MUSIC

## Soul out show

Call them Joan of park! A band based in Prospect Park will move inside for a free-spirited bash of music, silly costumes, and pastries at the bar Friends and Lovers on Nov. 5. The lead singer of Joan says that the band's "Soul Parade" party will celebrate unity through the power of music, and hopes that everyone will feel the love.

Photo by Louise Wernick



"It's celebrating that across people and genres there is something that everyone has within them and is able to connect to," said Nick Farago, who will open the event with his fellow band member Hank Mittnacht.

The Soul Parade party will feature a smorgas-borg of diverse musical performances, all recruited serendipitously. The band, which often practices and performs in Prospect Park, met soul and reggae performer Blue Dahlia while she was busking on the subway, and the musicians connected with spoken word artist Supe the Dude through a chance encounter on the street. The guys of Joan wrangled their genre-spanning friends into a show to celebrate what they all have in common — a vaguely-defined feeling they call "soul."

"We've always felt it was the soul that connected the music together, even though song-to-song it was wildly different," said Farago. "There is something connecting them and that would be soul — the soul in music and the soul in human beings."

Farago and Mittnacht dreamed up the Soul Parade while creating the music of Joan — they realized their music had no defining genre, but that there was a soulful undercurrent through everything they did. The goal of Soul Parade, said Farago, is to celebrate that current and share it with new people.

"We wanted to make that manifest in a night because we felt it was something unique," he said.

The event will also feature a rack of costumes, so soul paraders can dress up in silly and inspiring regalia while they get in the spirit, along with baked goods from a local baker and friend of the band. These additions are deliberately random, said the band's manager — the band wants people to relax and express themselves freely, rather than promote any agenda.

"It's kind of an informal event, but that's okay because the feeling is good," said Nanda Golden.

"Soul Parade" at Friends and Lovers (641 Classon Ave. between Pacific and Dean streets in Crown Heights, (917) 979-3060, [www.fnlbk.com](http://www.fnlbk.com)). Nov. 5 at 9 pm. Free. — Allegra Hobbs

### BOOKS

## Reading picks

**Greenlight's pick** - "Hawthorn & Child" by Keith Ridgway

A couple of cops with a heavy workload and few solutions, the title characters of this novel search for criminal activity with the plotting approach of editors rather than the plodding of Scotland Yard detectives. Their London is dark, redolent with horrors and mysteries both petty and surreal. The detectives impose law and order, though they cannot affect the troubles that haunt them as individuals. They patrol the book's various narratives, appearing by routine, surprise, and by chance, an approach that underscores their motivations as police while allowing room for the strange, comical, and intriguing to enter.

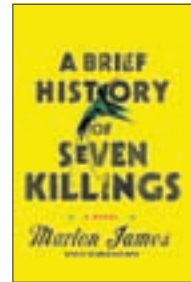


— Frankie Caracciolo, Greenlight Bookstore (686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, [www.greenlightbookstore.com](http://www.greenlightbookstore.com)).

**Community's pick** - "A Brief History of Seven Killings" by Marlon James

The Jamaican novel that recently claimed the Booker Prize deserves all of its accolades. "A Brief History of Seven Killings" is a magisterial novel that speaks loudly and carries a big stick. James takes the 1976 assassination attempt on Bob Marley as the occasion to tell a complex, polyphonic story of Jamaica's troubled recent history, filled with gangsters and ghosts, CIA agents and communists, lovers, killers, and survivors. It's like a Bolaño novel set in Kingston, mixed with James Ellroy and distilled through Faulkner, but make no mistake — it is also something entirely terrifying and visceral and new.

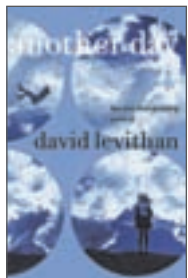
— Hal Hlavinka, Community Bookstore (43 Seventh Ave. between Carroll Street and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 783-3075, [www.communitybookstore.net](http://www.communitybookstore.net)).



**Word's pick** - "Another Day" by David Levithan

We lurved his novel "Every Day," and now David Levithan returns to the story of teenage lovers A and Rhiannon. This time he shifts perspective — in "Another Day" we get to meet A through Rhiannon's eyes. A wakes up in a different body every day of their life, and from their perspective it is normal. But for Rhiannon, it sounds like something out of a sci-fi novel. We grow with her as she experiences love (and heartbreak) that may not make sense to the brain, but that tugs at the heart anyway. It is such a treat to revisit A and Rhiannon's world.

— Emily Pullen, Word (126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, [www.wordbrooklyn.com](http://www.wordbrooklyn.com)).



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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

**FRIDAY**  
October 30



**It's a g-g-g-g-ghost!**

Cartoon creatures will creep through their crypts tonight in "Halloween Hijinks," a night of undead animation from the 1920s to the 1940s. The show's ghoulish gangs are balanced by sympathetic spooks like Casper the Friendly ghost.

7:30 pm at Standard ToyKraft (722 Metropolitan Ave. between Manhattan and Graham avenues in Williamsburg, www.standardtoykraft.org). \$10.

**SATURDAY**  
October 31

**Ice screams**

Tiny terrors will roam the ice today, when the Halloween Monster Skate Party kicks off a new season at Prospect Park's skating rink! Kids can also play Halloween games and compete in a costume contest at 1:30 pm. And if you see a guy in a hockey mask, check if a game is in progress before you skate away screaming!

Noon–6 pm at LeFrak Center at Lakeside (enter Prospect Park at Parkside and Ocean avenues, (718) 462-0010, www.lakeside-brooklyn.com). \$8 (\$4 in costume).



**MONDAY**  
November 2



**Emma-emotional**

Regency romances may tug at your heartstrings, but they rarely set your toes a-tapping. Park Slope's Gallery Players correct that deficiency with tonight's staged reading of "Emma," a new musical adaptation of the Jane Austen novel about a meddling match-maker.

7 pm at the Gallery Players (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101, www.galleryplayers.com). \$10.

**TUESDAY**  
November 3

**Rock out, if you please**

The members of this hard-rocking local garage band know that thrashing does not mean you have to forget your manners. The three musicians of Courtesy Tier will carefully display the aggressive tunes from their brand new album "Little Rock" tonight at Rough Trade.

7 pm at Rough Trade (64 N. Ninth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 388-4111, www.roughtradenyc.com). \$10.



**THURSDAY**  
November 5



**King sing**

Hobos are so hot right now! Buy an artisanal bindle on Bedford Avenue, then head to the one-man musical "King of the Hobos," where Jara Jones will strum his cigar-box guitar and sing the true tale of the migrant monarch and secret millionaire James Howe.

7 pm at St. Paul's Theatre (334 S. Fifth St. at Rodney Street in Williamsburg, www.kingofthehobos.com). \$18 (\$15 students).



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"Tales of the South Pacific" by **James A. Michener**

# NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

**FRI, OCT. 30**

**ART, "VIS-A-VIS" OPENING RECEPTION:** Photographers Todd Thomas and Charles Grogg document inanimate objects. **Free.** 6–9 pm. Anthony Philip Fine Art (56 Bogart St between Grattan Street and Harrison Place in Bushwick), www.anthonyphilipfineart.com.

**ART, PAINTING — MORE OR LESS, OPENING RECEPTION:** An exhibition featuring artists who use minimalist or maximalist, reductive or accumulative approaches in their painting practices. **Free.** 6–9 pm. Transmitter (1329 Willoughby Ave. 2A in Bushwick, (917) 653-8236), www.transmitter.nyc.

**THEATER, "THE RIDE INSPECTOR'S NIGHTMARE":** This horror-filled interactive theater piece starts Zero Boy as a Coney Island ride inspector, reliving the worse nightmares of his career. Features bad language, drug use, and audience abuse. \$15. 8 pm and 10 pm. Sideshows by the Seashore (1208 Surf Ave. between W. 12th Street and Stillwell Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159), www.coneyisland.com.

**SPOOKY MANSION:** Get lost inside The Wild Honey Pie's multi-room Halloween warehouse. \$45. 8 pm. The Paper Box (17 Meadow St. between Waterbury and Bogart streets in Bushwick, (917) 612-7435), spooky mansion.thewildhoneypie.com.

**ART, "EYE NOISE":** Berlin-based art duo Ravenact present an evening of music, shadow imagery, mask work, and multi-tongued poetry. **Free.** 8 pm. De-construct Projekts (41 Seabring St. at Richards Street in Red Hook, (347) 606-8444), projekts.de-construct.com.

**MUSIC, CHRISTIE BELANGER:** The singer celebrates the release of her new EP, "For Whomever, From No One." All ticket-holders receive a download of the album. \$12. 8 pm. First Congregational Society Brooklyn (116 Pierrepont St. at Monroe Place in Brooklyn Heights).

**COMEDY, EUGENE MIRMAN:** The Park Slope comedian celebrates the release of his nine-volume comedy LP "I'm Sorry (You're Welcome)". \$25. 8:30 pm. Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus,



Associated Press / Schalk van Zuydam

**Dapper dog:** Goofy and a bevy of princesses will dance and spin during the "Disney on Ice: 100 Years of Magic" show taking over Barclays for six days starting on Nov. 10.

## COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

**SUN, NOV 1**

**SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS BUFFALO SABRES:** \$40–\$1,250. 7:30 pm.

**FRI, NOV 6**

**SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS LOS ANGELES LAKERS:** \$79–\$4,000. 7:30 pm.

**MON, NOV 2**

**SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS MILWAUKEE BUCKS:** \$22–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

**SUN, NOV 8**

**SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS BOSTON BRUINS:** \$90–\$2,500. 5 pm.

**TUE, NOV 3**

**SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS NEW JERSEY DEVILS:** \$70–\$1,350. 7 pm.

**TUE, NOV 10**

**DISNEY ON ICE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF MAGIC:** \$15–\$100. 7 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618–6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

**http://**

Find lots more listings online at [BrooklynPaper.com/Events](http://BrooklynPaper.com/Events)

(718) 643-6510, www.thebell-housery.com.

**FILM, "NOSFERATU" LIVE SCORE:** On the night before Halloween, see the classic silent vampire film with a live soundtrack from violin-piano duo Tenth Intervention. \$8. 9 pm. Videology (308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg, (718) 782-3468), www.videology.info.

**MUSIC, TIGERS AND MONKEYS, SCHAFFER THE DARKLORD, THE GET IT:** **Free.** 9 pm. Hank's Saloon (46 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 625-8003), www.exitfive.com/hankssaloon.

**COME AS YOU ARE '80S AND '90S HALLOWEEN PARTY:** A dance party featuring horror movie and music video projections, a haunted photo booth, and a costume contest. \$8 (\$5 advance). 10:30 pm. Littlefield (622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388), www.littlefieldnyc.com.

**SAT, OCT. 31**

**DANCE, FAMILY HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY:** Mark Morris Dance Group company members teach excerpts from the 1970s Party Scene in "The Hard Nut." All ages, levels, and costumes are welcome. **Free.** 3 pm. Mark Morris Dance Group (3 Lafayette Ave. between Nostrand Avenue and Bedford Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 624-8400), www.markmorris-dancegroup.org.

**DANCE, FREDDY'S ANNUAL HALLOWEEN BASH:** The ghoully event will feature a costume contest, a wicked DJ and dance floor, and haunting drink specials. **Free.** 8 pm. Freddy's Bar (627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131), www.freddysbar.com.

See 9 DAYS on page 10



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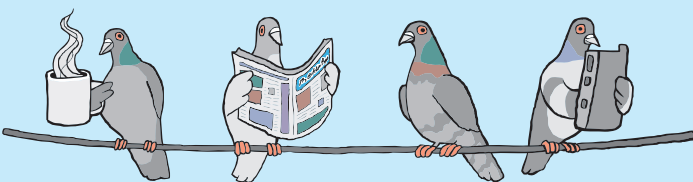
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**CEO**  
Les Goodstein  
**PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER**  
Jennifer Goodstein

**EDITORIAL STAFF**  
**EDITOR**  
Vince DiMiceli (718) 260-4508

**DEPUTY EDITOR**  
Ruth Brown (718) 260-8309

**ARTS EDITOR**  
Bill Roundy (718) 260-4507

**STAFF REPORTERS**  
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**ART DIRECTOR**  
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**THEATER**

**"Fawnbook" at the Brick Theater** (579 Metropolitan Ave. between Lorimer Street and Union Avenue, www.bricktheater.com) \$18. Nov. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13–14, 19–20 at 8 pm. Nov. 8 and 15 at 3 pm.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini



**Without a net:** The six members of the farm community in "Fawnbook," opening Nov. 5 at the Brick Theater, have no Internet access, but they speak entirely in dialogue drawn from social media posts.

# Before doe-saster

*'Fawnbook' imagines analog apocalypse*

By **Dennis Lynch**  
The Brooklyn Paper

**H**old on for deer life! Food is scarce, hope is staggering, and the apocalypse is looming in "Fawnbook," a new play about a tiny farm community inspired by the sight of a wild deer, opening at the Brick Theater in Williamsburg on Nov. 5.

The characters in the play have no Internet access, but all of their dialogue is drawn from real-life posts on Facebook or Twitter, complete with spoken "likes." Their struggle to build a community reflects the difficult relationships we build on social media, says the play's writer.

"There's definitely some callousness that comes to light," says playwright Ayun Halliday, who also acts in the play. "At one point, there's a character who is clearly very hurt and wants

to be consoled and my character gives back a heart emoticon. ... I do hope that people will think about social media, maybe ask 'Wow, is that the way we are communicating?'"

Audiences who hoof it to the show might contemplate how digital media has destroyed their interpersonal skills, but they should not share that insight on their smartphones. For the Nov. 11 show, Halliday will ask the audience to set aside digital devices and draw the show with pencils and sketchbooks, an analog approach that she hopes will bring them closer to the performance.

"Cellphone brain keeps you at arm's length from the action," she said. "Sketchbook brain draws you in, opens your senses, and preserves the memory even if your eyes have to travel back and forth between the stage and the page."

Halliday based the play off of an improv sketch, which was itself in-

spired by a Facebook conversation about finding a fawn in a backyard. "Fawnbook" similarly opens with a woman describing an encounter with a lone fawn, news that bucks up her fellow survivors, all of whom want to see the fawn for themselves, and to see it survive.

"The fawn has represented different things in different cultures, mostly good things like rebirth and gentleness," said Halliday. "So we're in this world where things are getting really terrible, near the end even for our small band, but the community is still captivated by the fawn."

A 40-minute version of "Fawnbook" got a brief test run last week in the distant isle of Manhattan, allowing Halliday and her crew to shake out any problems before the full, hour-long version opens for more-discerning Brooklyn audiences on Nov 5.

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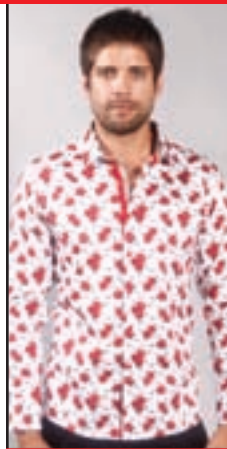
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# 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

**MUSIC, HALLOWEEN CONCERT AND DANCE PARTY:** Ditch the sugar haul and celebrate Halloween with the grown-ups! Join The Omni Ensemble as it ushers in its 33rd Season with a concert and dance party. \$15, \$10 for students. 8 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music [58 Seventh Ave. between Lincoln and Saint Johns places in Park Slope, (718) 622-3300], www.bqcm.org.

**MUSIC, HELL OF ALL HALLOWEEN'S EVE AT HANKS SALOON:** Featuring scary bands The Cuts, Aron Blue and the Bootleggers, BuggenHagen, and the Pillz, along with a costume contest. \$8, 8 pm. Hank's Saloon [46 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 625-8003], www.exitfive.com/hankssaloon.

**MUSIC, HALLOWANUS V:** The Gowanus Studio Space's party features DJs, dancing, and a photobooth. \$15 (\$10 in advance). 9 pm–4 am. The Gowanus Studio Space [166 7th St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (347) 948-5753], www.gowanustudio.org.

**MUSIC, BOO YOURSELF, DANNY TENAGLIA:** \$60 (\$30 in advance). 10 pm. Output [74 Wythe Ave. at N. 12th Street in Williamsburg, (917) 333-1000], www.outputclub.com.

**MONSTER MASH:** Kids should dress to impress at this ghoulish glowing dance party. Free with museum admission. 10 am–5 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

**HAUNTED HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL:** Brooklyn Puppetry Arts hosts a carnival with puppet-making, games, and a haunted house. Free. 11 am–3 pm. 1st Street Recreation Center (First Street at Fourth Avenue in Park Slope), www.puppetryarts.org.

**"HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA":** The Old Stone House's all-day event will have a pet costume contest, music by the Treblemakers, and serves as the end point of the Park Slope Halloween Parade. Free. 11 am–8 pm. The Old Stone House [336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195], theoldstonehouse.org.

**HALLOWEEN WORKSHOP:** Join with Melanie Hope Greenberg for some bootiful fun. Free. 11 am. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [10 Grand Army Plaza, between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100], www.

brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

**HALLOWEEN HARVEST FEST:** Enjoy story-telling, pumpkin-picking, and a dog costume parade along the creepily-decorated boardwalk. And check out the dancers on the Monster Mash stage. Free. Noon–8 pm. Luna Park (Boardwalk and W. 12th Street in Coney Island), www.lunaparknyc.com.

**KIDS' HALLOWEEN PARADE:** Terrifying tykes show off their costumes. Free. Noon. Carroll Park (Carroll Street between Smith and Court streets in Carroll Gardens).

**FILM, "SHAUN OF THE DEAD" EXTRAVAGANZA:** For Halloween night, Videology transforms into The Winchester, the bar from beloved comedy-zombie film "Shaun of the Dead." The movie will be screening all day. Free. Noon–2 am. Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at 5. First Street in Williamsburg, (718) 782-3468], www.videology.info.

**GLOW IN THE DARK KID'S HALLOWEEN PARTY:** Max Adventures hosts a party for kids 5–11, with glow in the dark Halloween props, a laser maze, pizza, and a performance by Dance and Art Academy of Sheepshead Bay. \$45 per child and adult pair. Noon–2 pm. Max Adventures [2378 Flatbush Ave., (718) 676-9577], max-adventuresny.com.

**KIDS HALLOWEEN PARTY AND SQUARE DANCE:** With square dancing, live music, a costume contest, prizes, and candy, \$7 kids (parents free). 5–7 pm. Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 395-3214], www.jalopy.biz.

**FREE ALL HALLOWS' EVE GREAT PUMPKIN PARTY:** This free event for children 10 years and younger will have pumpkin painting, games, treats, and prizes. Children must be in costume and accompanied by an adult. FREE. 6–8 pm. St. Philip's Parish Hall [1072 80th St. at 11th Avenue in Dyker Heights, 718.745.2505], www.stphilipsbrooklyn.com.

## SUN, NOV. 1

**BANN KONTE:** Bann Konte is a procession of rara musicians, traditional games, and folktales, traveling from the Haiti Cultural Exchange home base and making pit stops at different locations. \$10 suggested donation. 2 pm. Haiti Cultural Exchange [558 St. John's Pl. between Franklin and Classon avenues in Prospect Heights, (347) 565-4429], haiticulturalx.org/bannkonte.

**NYC MARATHON:** Get ready to run! The world's biggest and most popular marathon with 50,000 finishers is set to take off at 8 am at



Sleep no more: Get a dose of post-Halloween horror with this silent-film style shadow-puppet show adaptation of the creepy tale "Sleepy Hollow," opening at Cloud City on Nov. 5.

the foot of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and ends in Central Park in Manhattan. 8 am. Verrazano-Narrows Bridge (Bay Street in Staten Island).

**DAY OF THE DEAD INTERACTIVE DINNER PERFORMANCE:** Join Obscura Society members from Mexico and Mexican heritage for a dinner performance to honor the deceased. Guests are invited to bring images and objects for a communal altar. \$5–\$15. 3–7 pm. De-Construct [projekts] [41 Seabring St. at Richards Street; Third floor in Red Hook], projekts.de-construct.com.

**ROLIE POLIE GUACAMOLE:** The kindie rock band plays a "Day After Halloween Costume Party Show." \$12 (\$35 family of four). 3 pm. Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 395-3214], www.jalopy.biz.

## MON, NOV. 2

**TALK, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN INTEGRATING NYC'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** Join council members, school officials, and parents for a panel discussion about integrating public schools. Free. 6 pm. Brooklyn Law School [250 Joralemon St. at Boerum Place, (551) 358-7672], www.nycollaborates.org/events.

**TALK, "BROTHER OUTSIDER — THE LIFE OF BAYARD**

**RUSTIN":** A documentary about the openly gay civil rights activist and organizer of the 1963 March on Washington. Talk with director Bennett Singer and Walter Naegle, Rustin's surviving partner, to follow. Free. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

**THE WILLIAMSBURG SPELLING BEE:** An adults-only spelling bee with a fun, not-too-competitive environment. Free. 7:30 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petescandy-store.com.

## TUES, NOV. 3

**JUNIOR'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY:** Junior's celebrates its 65th anniversary by offering slices of their famous Original NY Plain Cheesecake slices for just 65 cents. \$0.65. 6:30 am–midnight. Junior's Brooklyn [386 Flatbush Ave., (718) 852-5257], www.juniorscheesecake.com.

**UNJUST KIDDING AT BROOKLYN PUBLIC PHILLOSOPHERS:** Jennifer Ware discusses stereotypes, slurs, and the psychological and social mechanisms through which humor can hurt. Free. 7 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [10 Grand Army Plaza, between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect

Heights, (718) 230-2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

## WED, NOV. 4

**MUSIC, "EPIPHANY — THE CYCLE OF LIFE":** This live music show sends its audience roaming through labyrinthine tunnels of video, light, and reflection. \$25. 7:30 pm. BAM Fisher [321 Ashland Pl. between Hansen Place and Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene], www.bam.org/visit/buildings/bam-fisher.

**MUSIC, ANTIBALAS:** The acclaimed afrobeat band plays a weekly residency at Brooklyn Bowl. \$15. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

**DANCE, THE AFROFUTURISM SERIES:** The Renegade Performance Group investigates the presence of Blackness into and beyond 21st Century techno-culture. \$25. 8 pm. Irondale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233], www.irondale.org.

## THURS, NOV. 5

**READING, ADA CALHOUN:** The author of "St. Marks is Dead" reveals the rich history behind the three Manhattan blocks that have been an immigrant's haven, a mafia warzone, a hippie paradise, and an elite address. Free.

7–9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

**ART, "SIZE QUEENS" EXHIBITION:** Artists from the weekly Drink and Draw event at Lovegun display artwork inspired by the life drawing sessions of burlesque models and drag queens. With a modeling session at 8 pm and drag show at 10:30 pm. Free. 7 pm–1 am. Lovegun [617 Grand St. between Lorimer and Leonard streets in Williamsburg].

**LGBTQ AND THE CHURCH — BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS THE DIVIDE:** Front Church hosts a discussion about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community and churches. With Justin Lee, Founder of the Gay Christian Network and author of the book "Torn." \$10. 7 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363], www.roulette.org.

**FUND RAISER, PARTY FOR PAWS:** This fund-raiser for Brooklyn Animal Action features food, drinks, and a silent auction featuring gift cards from local businesses, wines, original artwork, and handmade gifts. \$50. 7 pm. Stone Park Cafe [324 Fifth Ave. at Third Street in Park Slope, (718) 369-0082], stoneparkcafe.com.

**VAN ALLEN VARIETY SHOW:** Beneath the vaults of a vacant Clinton Hill church, enjoy a fast-paced evening

of performance and presentations. \$7. 7 pm. Former St. Luke's Evangelical Church [259 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, New York 11205 in Clinton Hill, (212) 924-7000], www.vanallen.org.

**THEATER, SHADOW PUPPET "SLEEPY HOLLOW":** A silent film-style shadow-puppet adaptation of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," from Bedford-Stuyvesant troupe Drama of Works. \$15 (\$12 students and seniors). 8 pm. Cloud City [85 N. First St. between Berry and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg], www.cloudcity.nyc.

**MUSIC, ONEMAN, OBEY CITY, DOCTOR JEEP:** This pre-party for the 2015 Brooklyn Electronic Music Festival is hosted by Rinse FM. \$15. 10 pm. Verboten [54 N. 11th St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (347) 223-4732], www.verbotennewyork.com.

## FRI, NOV. 6

**ART, "DEATH MAY GET YOU DOWN (AND OTHER DRAWINGS)" OPENING RECEPTION:** Zane York creates ballpoint pen drawings of momento mori figures on brightly-colored paper. Free. 6–9 pm. Yashar Gallery [276 Greenpoint Ave. at Provost Street in Greenpoint], www.zaneyork.com.

**FILM, "CONEY ISLAND RULES" AND OTHER FILMS:** Filmmaker Charlie Ahearn presents his documentary about the Coney Art Walls exhibit, along with several other short films. A discussion with the director follows. \$20 (\$15 in advance). 6:30 pm. Wythe Hotel [80 Wythe Ave. at N. 11th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 460-8000], www.wythehotel.com.

**THEATER, "MR. BURNS":** The performing arts high school presents an apocalyptic play about a new art form that grows up around a sketchily-remembered episode of "The Simpsons." \$15. 7 pm. Edward R. Murrow High School Joseph Papp Theater [1600 Avenue L at E. 17th Street in Midwood], www.ermurrows.org.

**ART, BAY RIDGE ART SPACE GRAND OPENING:** The new art gallery, studio, and classroom space hosts its inaugural exhibit "New Ovington Village," featuring 30 artists living in Bay Ridge. Free. 7–9 pm. Bay Ridge Art Space [509 Senator St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Bay Ridge], www.bayridgeartspace.com.

**MUSIC, "JETHRO TULL — THE ROCK OPERA":** Ian Anderson celebrates the life and times of English inventor Jethro Tull, with music from the band Jethro Tull. \$50. 8 pm. Kings Theatre [1027 Flatbush Ave. between Beverly Road and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush], www.kingstheatre.com.

Tilden Avenue in Flatbush, www.kingstheatre.com.

**MUSIC, SVETLANA AND THE DELANCEY FIVE:** \$10 suggested donation. 8 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

**THEATER, IKTUS PERCUSSION VS. PAUL PINTO:** The percussion ensemble presents "Long before I dance under those lights," a new theatrical work based on the training regimen and routines of amateur boxers. \$15-25. 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363], www.roulette.org.

**DANCE, "CIRCUS OF INEQUITY":** An evening of awe-inspiring circus talent, a touch of sideshow, and a twist of burlesque. \$20. 9:30 pm. The Bridges [66 Water St. between Washington and Main streets in Dumbo, (347) 906-4569], www.dumboburlesque.com.

## SAT, NOV. 7

**PUMPKIN SMASH!** Bring pumpkins, Jack-o-Lanterns, and gourds for a smashing good time! And the NYC Compost Project will turn the results into compost for city parks and green spaces. Free. 10 am–noon. Red Hook Community Farm [103 Otsego St. at Halleck Street in Red Hook].

**ART, PARK SLOPE WINDSOR TERRACE ARTISTS OPEN STUDIO:** The artists and photographers of the Park Slope Windsor Terrace Artists Group invite the general public to visit their studios. A tour map can be found on the group's website. Free. Noon–6 pm. Artist Studios, parkslopewindsorter-artists.wordpress.com.

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**MUSIC, TAMMY SCHEFFER SEXTET:** Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene], www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.

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Photo by Louise Wateridge

## Dog in disguise

Zander the Shih Tzu dressed up like a dinosaur for the Howl-O-Ween costume contest at the Sean Casey Animal Rescue in Windsor Terrace.

## Learning experience

Parents want brothel turned into school

By Dennis Lynch  
The Brooklyn Paper

Call it the School of Hard... never mind.

The city should turn an alleged whorehouse into a house of learning, Sunset Park parents say. Two dozen demonstrators gathered in front of the Sunny 39 Hotel on 39th Street — which cops raided this month for allegedly operating as a brothel — demanding the city build an education facility on the property to deal with overcrowding at nearby schools on Oct. 22.

The city has been slow to deliver on promised new schools in the area, citing lack of land — but the now-shuttered hotel is a perfect opportunity, one parent said.

“All they keep saying is that we’re going to have a new school, but they don’t say where,” said Mimi Ferrer of the group Concerned Parents of Sunset Park. “Here is a space, there’s plenty of spaces available. Stop saying there’s no space when there’s space. I’m tired of seeing hotels being built up, seeing apartments being built up, but no schools being built. Our teachers are overwhelmed, our parents are overwhelmed, and our classrooms are overcrowded.”

Three of four nearby schools are well over capacity, city data shows. Education officials report that PS 169 on Seventh Avenue has a



Community News Group / Dennis Lynch

Mimi Ferrer, with the community group Concerned Parents of Sunset Park, celebrates the closing of the Sunny 39 Hotel with Gisselle and Talina Ferrer (unrelated) outside. The group wants to turn the now-shuttered hotel into a school.

capacity of just under 1,300 students, but there were more than 1,600 enrolled there, according to 2015 enrollment data from the Department of Education. PS 94 on Sixth Avenue is similarly burdened, and PS 1 on 47th Street is more than 100 students over its 1,158 capacity, data shows.

The city’s existing plan to create 113 new seats over five years in a district that needs 1,900 drew locals’ ire in March.

The four-story, 44-room hotel between Fifth and Sixth avenues has been empty since cops arrested the owners and manager and

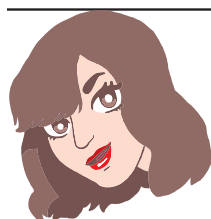
charged them with permitting prostitution and falsifying business records on Oct. 15. Authorities alleged they knowingly funneled clients to rooms being rented by pimps and prostitutes.

A local politician has already joined the fight, sending Mayor DeBlasio a letter urging him to step in.

“This hotel is now in our past and we need to move on,” Assemblyman Felix Ortiz (D–Sunset Park) wrote to Mayor Tall on Oct. 23.

Hizzoner hasn’t responded to Ortiz yet, a spokesman for the assemblyman said.

# Broadway star meets deaf kids



## Rhymes with CRAZY

By Lenore Skenazy

Peek into any school on any day, and chances are you will see a little magic. Or a lot. I peeked into PS 347 on E. 23rd Street in Manhattan last week and who should be there but Gregory Jbara, star of stage (Billy Elliott’s dad) and screen (he is on “Blue Bloods”), reading out loud about some very scary carrots.

Next to him stood an interpreter signing every word, because this is the American Sign Language and English Lower School.

“Jasper knew his parents were wrong. Creepy Carrots were real!” Jbara intoned as a group of about a dozen first graders sat at his feet on the rug, wriggling a bit, of course, but wide-eyed with interest.

“Where are the carrots?” Jbara asked the kids, pointing to a page of tombstones.

“In the deadness!” yelped a little boy.

“In the graveyard, yes,” Jbara nodded.

So what brought a Tony Award winner to a school where all the kids are deaf, hard of hearing, or “deaf-al-

lied” (that means children of deaf adults)?

Facebook and fandom. Gary Wellbrock, the kids’ teacher, has always been a Broadway fanatic. He was a performing arts major back in the day. Now he has a doctorate in deaf education. But if you’re a theater fan and you work in New York City and you’re active on Facebook, after a while, your worlds merge. So on July 3, just to see what would happen, Wellbrock posted about an idea he’d been percolating. He called it “Broadway Books First Class.”

His idea was to invite Broadway performers to come to his first-grade class and read aloud a book. Why not? The city’s budget for arts education had been dwindling. So here was a way to give the

kids a glimpse of the theater world, and a hint of the gift that belongs to all New Yorkers: We live in the capital of the arts. Drink it in!

“I just posted, ‘Is anybody interested?’ And within hours, he was like, ‘Yes. I’m in,’” Wellbrock recalled, nodding at Jbara. “I typed back, ‘That would be cool,’ but I was really running around like, ‘Oh my God! Oh my God!’” The two had never met, but there was Broadway royalty saying, “See you soon!”

By the Fourth of July, Wellbrock had four stars signed up. And now his growing list includes drag legend Charles Busch (should be a great class!), actress Alison Fraser (the stripper “Tessie Tura” in “Gypsy”), as well as Brooklynite Eden Duncan-Smith, age 15, who starred in

“The Lion King” on Broadway. She’s also in the movie “Meadowland” with Olivia Wilde and Luke Wilson. And she also happens to be a former student of Wellbrock’s.

Like I said, if you’re in New York and love Broadway, your worlds will eventually merge.

“Let’s thank Mr. Jbara,” said Wellbrock, as the actor closed his book. In addition to a chorus of audible thank yous, many hands waved in the air — the deafequivilant of clapping.

“Some of the kids want to grow up and become actors too,” Wellbrock told him.

“I want to be a doctor!” shouted one boy.

“I want to be a slapper of things!” shouted another, proceeding to slap himself in the face until everyone told him to cut it out.

“Do we have any questions for Mr. Jbara?” Wellbrock jumped in.

“Have you danced on TV?” one kid asked.

“I have.”

“How do you make movies?” asked another, to which Mr. Jbara gave a kid-friendly

description of a typical filming day.

“Did you always want to be an actor?”

Bingo! That question sent Jbara back to the time he was exactly the same age as these kids. “We learned a song called ‘Frosty the Snowman,’ and the teacher decided she wanted one of the students to dress as Frosty,” he told them. “Everybody wanted to be Frosty, but the teacher decided it was actually going to be me.”

He looked a little misty, recalling his first gig. After all, it set the stage — as it were — for the rest of his life.

The kids seemed to understand, and one came over wearing a bunny puppet on his hand which he hopped up and down Jbara’s arm.

“What’s this?” Jbara asked.

“A lion,” the boy replied.

First grade can be a magical time. Especially if there’s a teacher who makes sure of it.

Lenore Skenazy is a keynote speaker and author and founder of the book and blog *Free-Range Kids*.

## When to push, and when to shove

“Just let me deal with it. It’s my life and my choice.” My 17-year-old daughter pointedly jabs these words at me, often in relation to my telling her that she has to work on her college applications.

On the face, her sentiment seems rational enough, but I’ve learned never to trust the apparent sanity of anything that comes out of a teenager’s mouth.

I understand her desire to be in control of her future and the college process is certainly the place for this. Shouldn’t she be the one to choose where she goes? In college she will choose her major, her first job, take the biggest steps into her future. Shouldn’t she be in control of the process and invest herself in the outcome?

Yes... but. Nothing is simple in adolescence. Faced with either going out with friends or writing another application essay, she might pick spending time with her crew. In her mind, the consequence is not getting that early application in to her first-choice school, but there is still regular admissions and there are other schools she’d be happy to go to,

so no biggie.

That she exists in the moment is both the beauty and danger of her teenage mind. My girl lives fully. Happy or sad, she feels deeply, and also bounces back quickly, sloughing off a bad test or lost volleyball game and throwing herself into the next moment. However, understanding the consequences of decisions in a time frame extending beyond today is not her strong suit.

That seems to be my job, anticipating the long-term impact of her decisions and trying to help her see, understand and feel them. Failing that, I enforce some sort of reality check. Occasionally, this includes ratcheting up the pressure, like making her stay home and get those essays done instead of going out with friends.

Submitting college applications through Early Decision or Early Admission programs can be a big advantage, sometimes making the difference between getting in and being rejected as a regular ap-



## The Dad

By Scott Sager

plicant. My girl says I only care about her getting into the best school she can. What I’m really thinking is that I want

her to go somewhere that will offer her the most opportunities for her future, preparing her for whatever she decides to do.

I could just let her “handle” it. The applications might be done on time or they might not and, either way, she certainly would face the consequences. It is one thing to let her screw up a single English paper or miss a softball game, but quite

another to let her throw away opportunities that could impact the rest of her life.

In the end, I’m trying to make sure she doesn’t throw away chances because she can’t appreciate their potential importance. Some day soon it will all be up to her to deal with.

I’m just making sure she has choices when she reaches that day.

## METS...

Continued from page 11 runs in a single home game — and a few weeks later, Duda matched him.

Playing in the World Series is new to virtually all of the Mets, though some have competed for top prize in lesser leagues. Conforto played in the Little League World Series and College World Series and nearly took the Cyclones to the New York-Penn League playoffs last year, but Brooklyn was knocked out of contention on the final day of the season.

Still, the World Series is a whole new ball game, Conforto said.



Brooklyn Cyclones

YJuan Lagares was, in fact, a Clone in 2008.

“I can’t say it’s exactly the same,” he said. “Obviously we’re on the biggest stage. The Brooklyn Cyclones — it’s baseball — we’re excited we were doing playoffs there, and it’s

exciting, but it’s definitely not the same as being here. This has been my dream. This has been everybody’s dream, everybody on this team — win an NLCS, go to the World Series, and hopefully win it.”

And reliever Hansel Robles — he’s so hot right now — was a surprise addition. As a 2012 Clone, the fireballer led the league with an impressive 1.11 earned run average.

The righty has proved exceptional at shutting down left-handed batters, so expect fierce battles with Royals slugers Eric Hosmer and Mike Moustakas, and Alex Gordon — all of whom have batting averages above 2.70.



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**NOVEMBER 3**

vs.  
NEW JERSEY  
DEVILS  
T-Shirt  
Giveaway Night

**DECEMBER 15**

vs.  
FLORIDA  
PANTHERS

**JANUARY 12**

vs.  
COLUMBUS  
BLUE JACKETS  
*Johnny Boychuk  
Bobblehead Night*

**JANUARY 14**

vs.  
NEW YORK  
RANGERS

**FEBRUARY 2**

vs.  
MINNESOTA  
WILD  
*Nick Leddy  
Bobblehead Night*

**APRIL 9**

vs.  
BUFFALO  
SABRES



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